



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General  
Division of Consumer Affairs  
Audiology and Speech-Language  
Pathology Advisory Committee  
P.O. Box 45002, Newark, NJ 07101

# AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Volume 3

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006

## Message from the Chairperson

### “Our Changing Professions”

Those of us who have practiced the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology for a number of years have been witness to extraordinary changes and growth to the professions. For those who are new to the fields, one only has to search the literature to see the changes that have occurred. This explosion in change can be attributed to many factors including changes in technology, education, evidence-based data, professional advocacy and clinical care practices.

Since its inception, the Audiology and Speech-Language Advisory Committee has recognized the need to incorporate changes within the professions and views this need as an integral part of its responsibilities. However, the committee also recognizes that a systematic process is necessary in order to facilitate effective change.

A recent example of change which followed a systematic process was the expansion of the speech-language pathology scope of practice to include Fiber Optic Endoscopic Examination (FEES). This process included a review of the literature, data collection, risk/benefit assessment, training requirements and safety assessment. After careful review, the committee recommended that FEES be included in the Speech-Language Pathologist's scope of practice. This change was promulgated and went into effect in January 2005.

As a licensee, your input is welcomed as changes occur within the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology. Supporting your position with documentation and relevant facts helps to move the process forward in an expedient manner.

Working together for the betterment of New Jersey's consumers is always a step in the right direction as our changing professions expand. Thank you for your continued commitment to the people you serve.

Dr. Anne M. Eckert  
Chairperson

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## AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH- LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## Meet the Committee Members

**Hilda Pressman, M.A., CCC/SLP, B.R.S.-S.** was appointed to the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee in October 2004. She is a Board-Recognized Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. Ms. Pressman is a principal in Nutritional Management Associates, a private practice specializing in services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Ms. Pressman serves as a consultant in dysphagia to Early Intervention Programs as well as serving as an ancillary staff member at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center. She is in private practice in Essex County.

**Nancy Schneider, M.A., CCC/A, F.A.A.A.** received her M.A. in Audiology from the University of Maryland in 1983 and is a licensed audiologist and hearing aid dispenser in the State of New Jersey. Ms. Schneider completed the Certificate Program in American Sign Language Studies from Union County College and went on to serve as an adjunct instructor in the Interpreters for the Deaf/A.S.L. Studies Department. Ms. Schneider co-authored several papers on universal newborn hearing screening and follow-up that were presented in national and international venues. In addition, she co-presented poster sessions on syndromic hearing loss at the American Academy of Otolaryngology Annual Meeting (2000) and authored an article on equal accessibility for deaf patients in the hearing health care setting. Ms. Schneider was the senior audiologist at University Hospital Newark (U.M.D.N.J.) for 16 years, where she received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, U.M.D.N.J. New Jersey Medical School (1992). Presently, Ms. Schneider serves as the Audiologist for the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program and is a member of the Directors of Speech and Hearing Programs in State Health and Welfare Agencies.

### —UPDATE ON HEARING SCREENING IN SCHOOLS—

A collaborative effort between audiologists representing both the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services yielded development of a comprehensive document regarding school-based hearing screening. A draft of this document was presented to the members of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee, with a majority voting for the draft to be forwarded to the Department of Education for review and consideration prior to the Department's anticipated publication of the 2005 hearing screening guidelines. The draft included recommended screening protocols, pass/refer guidelines, referral recommendations, calibration considerations, recommended documentation of screening results and policies for utilization of audiology consultants to establish screening competencies. In addition, the draft of the hearing screening guidelines assists with the interpretation of screening methods; offers guidance on screening issues; and collaborates with the Department of Education on training by the audiology community.

## Important Information to all Temporary Licensees

The Committee would like to clarify some issues regarding temporary licenses in New Jersey. There are two categories of temporary licensure; one is for professionals who have recently moved to New Jersey, and the other is for new professionals who are working in a clinical internship.

### New Residents:

New residents (six months or less) may obtain a temporary license if they meet the specified qualifications for licensure. These licenses are effective up to one year, and are designed to enable qualified individuals who hold a current and valid license in another state to secure timely employment in New Jersey.

### Clinical Interns:

Individuals who have completed the requirements for a graduate degree in speech-language pathology or audiology (or the equivalent) **must** obtain a temporary license **before** commencing work as a clinical intern. To obtain an application, call the Committee at 973-504-6390 before beginning your job search. Once you have secured an internship, have your clinical internship supervisor complete the supervision plan with you.

Individuals must submit an application for temporary licensure, a signed supervision plan, and proof that the appropriate educational requirements have been met. You must receive your temporary license before you can begin your clinical internship. Your clinical internship must be completed in the time indicated in the supervision plan. For those practicing full-time, this is nine months; for those practicing part-time, it may be as long as 18 months. Your temporary license ends when you complete your clinical internship. Please note the date that your temporary license expires. You must obtain your permanent license before the end of your internship in order to continue professional practice. In order to expedite this process, please notify the Committee office two months prior to the date your internship ends. This will allow ample time for the appropriate procedures (criminal background check, fingerprinting, etc.) to occur.

**Important: Please call the Committee at 973-504-6390 two months prior to the end of your internship to begin the process of applying for a permanent license. You may not practice with a temporary license beyond the end date indicated on your supervision plan.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Web site Information

The Web site for the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee is <http://njconsumeraffairs.gov/medical/audiology.htm>.

You can go to the Web site to find out about the Committee's licensee directory and the latest information on FEES, as well as meeting dates, minutes and agendas, new rule proposals and adoptions, and change of address and complaint forms. You can also access our statutes and regulations at <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/aud/audrule.pdf>. Here you can look up information such as the requirements for licensure, acceptable continuing education classes or programs, or Committee fees. Save these Web sites under your favorites for quick and easy access.

### Continuing Education

Now is a great time to review your continuing education hours and be sure that you are in compliance with the regulations. Do you need to know how many hours are required in order to renew your license? Access the Web site and refer to N.J.A.C. 13:44C-6.1 through 6.6.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

On May 12, 2005, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee held new elections for official positions. Dr. Anne M. Eckert was elected chairperson of the Committee. Hilda Pressman was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee. Congratulations are extended to both! Former Committee President Sandy Friedland was thanked for her outstanding contribution to the Committee. Sandy will continue in her present capacity as a Committee member.

## Disciplinary Actions 2004-2005

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**Jeffrey Stephens:** violation of N.J.S.A. 45:3B-1 et seq., N.J.S.A. 45:1-21b and e, and N.J.A.C.13:44C-1 et seq., in which the respondent knowingly falsified records to induce others to reimburse him for speech-language pathology services which he did not, in fact, render. Respondent's license was revoked and he shall not apply for reinstatement for two years from the date of revocation. Respondent was assessed the costs of the investigation in the amount of \$10,248.63. Respondent reimbursed the Committee \$15,436.68 for fees incurred. Respondent also reimbursed the complainant in the amount of \$2,115.00.

**Sarah Markin:** violation of N.J.S.A. 45:3B-15, Prohibition of representation as a practitioner by an unlicensed person. She was fined \$250.

**Sharon Williams:** violation of N.J.A.C.13:44C-9.1(a)1, Acts amounting to unlicensed practice: 1. Offering of any speech-language pathology or audiology services by any person who does not hold the applicable license as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist or is not exempt from licensure pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44C-7.2. She was also found to be in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:3B-15, Prohibition of representation as a practitioner by an unlicensed person. She was fined \$2,000.

**Rosemary Bruch:** violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44C-9.2, Aiding and abetting unlicensed practice. She was fined \$1,500.

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## Continuing Education Requirements

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The Committee receives many inquiries regarding the requirements for continuing education in New Jersey. The following information may help clarify some of the requirements for licensees.

All licensees must complete 20 hours of continuing professional education in the two-year period preceding license renewal. Acceptable continuing professional education shall be in areas that are directly related to the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology, as appropriate. The hours must be provided by an agency, group or organization that is accredited by the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education or accredited or sponsored by a local, state or national audiology or speech-language pathology professional organization, or a local, state or federal agency or similar professional organization.

In addition to receiving credit for attending workshops or conferences provided by appropriate organizations, there are a number of alternative ways for licensees to obtain the

required number of hours. Self-study or home study courses, provided by the appropriate organizations, may be taken to accrue a maximum of 10 of the required 20 hours. If a licensee gives a new seminar or lecture or in-service workshop, he or she may earn one hour per contact hour up to a maximum of 10 hours. If a licensee teaches a new graduate course, he or she may accrue six hours for each new course up to a maximum of 12 of the 20 hours.

There are additional ways for licensees to earn continuing professional hours, including taking graduate courses and publishing articles in national journals. Licensees are encouraged to refer to the regulations for clarification. The regulations can be found on the Web site. Licensees may also write to the Committee for clarification if there are additional questions that cannot be answered by the regulations.

### Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2006

January 12, 2006

March 9, 2006

May 11, 2006

July 13, 2006

September 14, 2006

November 9, 2006

## 13:44C-7.2A. Scope of Practice: Fiber Optic Endoscopic Examination of Swallowing (FEES)

- (a) The purpose of this section is to set forth standards for the performance of Fiber Optic Endoscopic Examination of Swallowing (FEES) by a licensed speech-language pathologist. FEES is within the scope of practice of a speech-language pathologist who meets the requirements of this section.
- (b) The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:  
“FEES” means a fiber optic endoscopic examination of swallowing.
- (c) FEES shall only be performed by a licensed speech-language pathologist who is certified in Basic Life Support (BLS) and who has:
  - 1. Completed a 12-hour seminar or workshop in fiber optic endoscopy as a technique for investigating swallowing which qualifies for American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) continuing education credit and which includes instruction in:
    - i. Medical contraindications and possible adverse reactions to FEES, including the use of topical anesthesia to the nares; and
    - ii. Recognizing patient distress and appropriate actions to take if complications are encountered;
  - 2. Observed 10 FEES procedures performed by either a speech pathologist who has met the requirements of this section or a physician, at a licensed healthcare facility that requires that healthcare professionals have privileges to perform the FEES procedure; and
  - 3. Successfully performed 25 FEES procedures under the supervision of a speech pathologist who has met the requirements of this section or a physician, at a licensed healthcare facility that requires that a healthcare professional have privileges to perform the FEES procedure.
- (d) A licensed speech-language pathologist shall only perform FEES in a healthcare facility licensed by the Department of Health and Senior Services or in the office of a physician who received training during residency in endoscopic examination.
- (e) FEES shall only be performed when a physician who received training during residency in endoscopic examination is present.
- (f) FEES shall only be performed upon the written request of a physician.

## Requirements for Supervision During the Clinical Internship

The role of the clinical supervisor is important in the professional development of individuals entering the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology in New Jersey. The following will help in clarifying some of the issues regarding the requirements for supervision.

An intern working in a non-exempt facility in New Jersey must practice under the **direct** supervision of a person licensed to practice audiology or speech-language pathology, as appropriate, in this State. If the internship takes place in another state, the standards for licensure must be substantially equivalent to New Jersey's, and the supervisor must hold the appropriate license as required by that state. If the clinical internship takes place in New Jersey in an exempt setting, such as a school, the supervisor must hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, or its equivalent.

At all times during the clinical internship, the supervisor is considered to be responsible for the professional practices of the temporary licensee.

The supervisor must meet the minimum requirements for direct supervision during the entire clinical internship experience. This is specified as one hour of direct, on-site supervision for every 20 hours of direct clinical service provided by the supervisee. So, for a clinician working a 40-hour week, that would be a minimum of two hours of direct supervision per week.

## Fourth-Year AuD. Students

Questions have been raised about fourth-year AuD. students and their ability to obtain licensure. Fourth-year AuD. students may apply for licensure when they present proof from an accredited college or university recognized by the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education that the necessary requirements have been met, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44C-3.2, 3.4, 5.1 and 5.2.

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